

13 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the first full week back at Montsaye there are lots of successes to share with you all.

Firstly, Mrs George led Character assemblies for all year groups which focused on our new core values of Respect, Honesty and Compassion. The assembly started with a list of numbers on a slide and students had to offer answers as to what the numbers represented. Mrs George then revealed that the numbers were linked to all the different praise points awarded since the beginning of term. It was great to see that thousands of points have been awarded for students demonstrating the values of Respect, Honesty and Compassion as well as for being awarded lesson star points. Year 7 had their assembly on Friday and as a year group they were told that their current praise point total was a staggering 3067 points!

I have spent a lot of time visiting lessons to see what students have been learning about across the curriculum. It was a pleasure to drop into a Year 10 dance lesson where the students were all keen to show me the motif that they had just learned. Year 11 students produced some excellent creative writing during their English lessons and a Year 9 group I visited were completing some good work on straight line graphs in maths. Outside of lessons, on Thursday afternoon, I also visited the music practice rooms where I was privileged to witness a musical performance by Liam and MyKah which was a real highlight of the week.

With respect to the school improvement journey, I am delighted that the whole school attendance is 92.2% compared with 89% last year which is a significant improvement. Standards of uniform have remained exceptionally high and it is a pleasure each day to welcome students into school each morning.

Thank you to all of you, so far, that have downloaded the Arbor app and logged on. There have been a few teething problems which we are ironing out but hopefully you have seen already how it is going to help improve communication.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our Class of 2025 launch evening on Thursday at 6pm for which the Eventbrite booking link has been shared. This is a really important evening for Year 11 students and parents to hear all about the year ahead and how best to prepare for the final GCSE examinations. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the evening.

In terms of praise, the top 3 forms for attendance so far are:

1st place – 8AWH – Mr Whitfield – 98.3%

2nd place – 10LFE – Mr Fernandes – 97%

3rd place – 10IJA – Mrs Power – 96.8%

The top 3 students for praise points this week were:

1st place - Tommie B – Year 8 – 39 points

Joint 2nd place – Olivia E – Year 8 and Romeo P - Year 10 – 30 points each

My stars of the week this week are:

-Liam W and Mykah C – for an incredible music performance

-Kaylan C – Year 9 – who achieved an incredible 5 lesson star awards in 5 consecutive lessons – well done Kaylan!

Finally, I wanted to say a huge thank you to you as parents and carers for the support shown via social media and other channels. The school is moving forward quickly, and I am very grateful for you all getting behind The New Montsaye Way. The improvement journey is well underway towards making this a school that the community can once again be proud of.

Have a pleasant weekend,

Yours sincerely,



Ben Baines
Principal